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1954/11/24

File - Mr. Lansdale

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24 November 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR AMBASSADOR COLLINS

1. Background for your lunch with Quat today.

If you decide on Quat for Defense and desire another position for Minh, in order to clear the way for Quat, then my suggestion is to advise Diem to put Minh in as Commissioner of Refugees. Minh is an engineer and should be good in the role.

Reports to me last night and this morning are that Diem is still looking for a new Commissioner of Refugees to replace Doi. Diem had hoped to place Pham Van Huyen in the job and it was so announced in the press. However, the Tinh Than Party ministers in Diem's cabinet talked him out of appointing Huyen. (Huyen is a good man).

2. Army

Major Giai, G-5 of the VNA, said goodbye to me this morning and asked if he could take a personal message to General Hinh. He and Hinh are intimate; Hinh has asked for him, as advisor.

The gist of what I told Giai for Hinh: The Americans are going to work with and help the Vietnamese Army directly very soon. Hinh should not take any actions which would spoil the good impression you had of him in your meeting with him at the briefing and should free the Army from any political actions so that the Americans can help make an efficient military force out of the Army as he desires.

Urged that Giai and Hinh spend time with Luyen (Diem's brother now in Paris; he and Hinh are friendly).

EDWARD G LANSDALE
Colonel USAF

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